



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 02-13-2001

Arlington School Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2001
7:30 PM

Present: **Wm. A. Carey, Jr., Chair** **David W. McKenna**
 Joani LaMachia, Vice-Chair **Martin J. Thrope**
 Michael T. Healy, Secretary **Barbara C. Goodman**

Kay Donovan, Joanne Gurry, Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: Denis J. Sullivan

Call To Order: 8:00 PM

State Legislators

Representatives Marzilli and Paulsen were in attendance per request of the School Committee to speak relative to budget issues. Both Marzilli & Paulsen urged the School Committee to keep pressure on legislators through:

- " Work with MASC and MASS and all other associations so that the funding formula for public education reflects the community that receives it.

- " Encouraged the committee and administration to keep the pressure on to fully fund Metco as promised.

Further both Representatives stated that they:

- " Would participate in a conference call with the Superintendent to expedite the audit of the Ottoson.

- " Would vote on a cigarette tax that would in the end help support education

- " Would vote in favor of a flat tax.

- " Would work on Gov. Cellucci's budget figures once they get to the House.

Ottoson Tech Ed Presentation

Rick Wise, Tech Ed Lead Teacher grades 6-12, gave a power point presentation of programs offered at the middle school.

AHS S.W.A.T.

AHS instructional technologist Dennis Mecurio, outlined the **AHS S.W.A.T. (Students Working to Advance Technology)** program. Members of the team volunteer their time to assist students and teachers who would like to utilize the resources available through telecommunications technology.

Public Participation

None

Vote On Traffic Supervisor

Mr. McKenna explained that after monitoring the traffic supervisor posting at Gray Street and Fountain Road the need to make the post permanent was determined by the safety council and the administration.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to approve the recommendation to make the traffic supervisor at Gray Street and Fountain Road a permanent post. 5 yes 1 present (Mr. McKenna voted present). Motion passes.

Mr. McKenna reported that the safety council also recommended a temporary post at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to approve the recommendation to create a temporary traffic post at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street beginning February 26, 2001 to the end of the school year (June 2001). 5 yes 1 present (Mr. McKenna voted present). Motion passes.

Report on Subcommittees

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Healy reported that the subcommittee had two meetings since the last meeting and has completed sections A through D. Mr. Healy asked town counsel John Maher for a legal opinion on the appointing authority for school committee vacancies. (Mr. Maher stated that the School Committee is the appointing authority). The next meeting will be February 27th at 3:45 PM.

Specialized Student Services

Mr. Carey stated that at the last meeting the subcommittee discussed what could be accomplished during the interim of Peirce field renovations. Kay would like to explore the possibility of a scoreboard with a message board attached to it (possibly sponsored with private donations).

Members of the AYD addressed the committee relative to fundraising.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was unanimously:

Voted that the Superintendent and AHS Athletic Director move forward on the cost/consultation on the purchase of a scoreboard with a message board using the funds from Armstrong Ambulance, in addition to recognize William Armstrong in some way on the scoreboard. Mr. Arles of AYD would like permission to raise money to buy defibrillators to have at school sporting events. He is looking to purchase a minimum of 10 kits to start with and believes that he would be able to hold training sessions at no cost to the school.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded

Voted that the Superintendent and the Athletic Director explore with the AYD (Arlington Youth Development) the proper placement, training, legal issues, fund raising, and purchase of defibrillators on school property. Unanimous
Mr. Healy requested that Supt. Donovan explore options/plan for building a press box.

Recess

Search Committee/AHS Principal

Mrs. Donovan announced that plans have begun in the AHS principal search.

Gus Martinson, Human Resource Officer highlighted the steps to be used in the principal search.

- .. Create focus groups (teachers, parents, PTO's, students)
- .. Create screen committee consisting of approximately 12 members
- .. Review the process with screening committee
- .. Paper screening
- .. Interviews
- .. Superintendent interviews
- .. Site visits
- .. Arlington visits

Mr. Martinson stated that he hopes to have the search completed and a candidate chosen by May 1st. Mr. McKenna and Mr. Carey expressed their desire to serve on the screening committee.

Warrant Articles

The committee voted unanimously to lay this agenda item on the table.

Support of Human Rights Commission Position

Mr. Carey asked the committee to take a vote on the human rights commission position request to endorse their letter to the Boys Scouts of America. The letter expresses "our profound disappointment with regard to your policy which excludes both gay scouts and homosexual scout leaders."

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to support the Human Rights Commission letter that conveys "our profound disappointment with regard to your policy which excludes both gay scouts and homosexual scout leaders." Unanimous

Budget Update

Supt. Donovan and Mr. McKenna attended the Budget Task Force the previous evening and reported that the budget is 2.5 million dollars over. The Town's allocation for the school department is \$600,000.00 less than the committee approved. Mrs. Donovan explained that with the likely budget cuts, the full day kindergarten program would not be fully funded and would most likely require a parent fee. The tentative date for presenting the school budget to the finance committee is March 21st.

New Business

Reported by the Superintendent and Committee Members

.. All of Arlington's elementary schools have earned a Cycle 1 School Improvement Rating of *Exceeded Improvement Expectation* due to improving MCAS scores. Each school has been invited to participate in the Commonwealth's new Exemplary Schools Program.

.. Grade 4 teachers recently attended a 'Best Practices' Sharing Day reviewing the group's top choices for best practices in teaching.

- “ Committee members should inform the chair or the administrative secretary of their intent to serve in a leadership role for next year.
- “ A letter thanking the International Institute of Boston for hosting trainings in preparation of the arrival of the Sudanese students will be sent from Supt. Donovan and the ASC.
- “ Public Hearings on the budget and redistricting will be held in March.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded it was

Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a legal and personnel issue. RC: Unanimous

Executive Session 10:45-11:05 PM

On a motion made by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to adjourn at 11:05 PM.